

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06723 101415Z POSS DUPE
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CPR-01 PER-01
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3306

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6723

FOR KUX NEA/INS FROM SCHNEIDER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, IN, (GOHEEN, ROBERT F.)

SUBJECT: ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE GOHEEN

1. I CALLED ON CHIEF OF PROTOCOL SINAI MAY 9 TO DISCUSS THE ARRIVAL AND PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS OF AMBASSADOR GOHEEN. I ASKED IF HIS ARRIVING IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE EDUCATION AND CULTURAL SUB-COMMISSION MEETING WOULD PRESENT PROBLEMS OF PROTOCOL. SINAI RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT MEA WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE THE CREDENTIALS CEREMONY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMISSION MEETING (PERHAPS ON THE 24TH) BUT IF NOT IT WOULD BE PERFECTLY PROPER FOR THE AMBASSADOR TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE SUBCOMMISSION MEETINGS AND TO HOLD A DINNER IN HONOR OF THE DELEGATION.

2. IN ORDER TO FACILITATE PLANNING FOR AN EARLY CREDENTIALS CEREMONY, THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD PLAN TO CALL ON THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL ON THE AFTERNOON OF SATURDAY, THE 21ST. ON THAT OCCASION HE SHOULD GIVE HIM COPIES OF HIS LETTER OF CREDENCE AND THE LETTER OF RECALL OF AMBASSADOR SAXBE. HE SHOULD ALSO HAND OVER COPIES OF THE REMARKS HE WILL MAKE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS. THEREFORE HE WILL WISH TO PREPARE THEM BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL. MEA WOULD APPRECIATE A COPY OF THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS IN ADVANCE OF THIS CALL IF POSSIBLE TO ENABLE THE
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PRESIDENT TO PREPARE HIS RESPONSE. FOLLOWING THE CALL ON SINAI, THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD ALSO CALL ON JOINT SECRETARY AND FOREIGN SECRETARY. THIS COULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL MONDAY.

3. AT HIS ARRIVAL ON THE 21ST THE AMBASSADOR WILL BE MET BY A DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, K. SUDHAKARAN AND A SMALL NUMBER OF SENIOR EMBASSY PERSONNEL. WE EXPECT THAT A FEW MEMBERS OF THE PRESS,

PARTICULARLY THE WIRE SERVICES, WILL BE PRESENT AT THE AIRPORT.
THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE A FEW ORAL REMARKS AT THAT
TIME.

4. IN REGARD TO DRESS FOR THE CREDENTIALS CEREMONY, SINAI, SAID
THAT THE INDIANS WILL WEAR THEIR MOST FORMAL DRESS, THE ACKHAN AND
THEY EXPECT THAT THE OTHER SIDE WILL COME IN ITS MOST FORMAL
APPROPRIATE DRESS. AS PETER LANDE CAN TELL YOU, THE CEREMONY IS A
VERY FORMAL ONE WITH HONOR GUARD, LANCERS AND STAND UP CEREMONY IN
ONE OF RASTRAPATI BHAVAN'S ELABORATE HALLS. SINAI SAID A MORNING
COAT AND HAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IF THIS IS OUR MOST FORMAL DRESS;
OTHERWISE A DARK LOUNGE SUIT IS IN ORDER. SINAI SAID A HAT WOULD
NOT BE NECESSARY WITH A LOUNGE SUIT AS IT WAS NOT REQUIRED
FOR THE CEREMONIES BUT IT MIGHT BE CONVENIENT FOR THE DRIVE IN AN
OPEN CAR TO THE CEREMONY. HE ALSO SAID THAT IT WOULD APPROPRIATE
IF THE AMBASSADOR ALONE WORE MORNING CLOTHES AND THE STAFF WORE
DARK SUITS (THIS IS WHAT AMBASSADOR SAXBE DID.) ONLY THE DCM HAS
MORNING CLOTHES AND THEY CANNOT BE RENTED IN DELHI. I GATHER FROM
ALL OF THIS THAT THE INDIANS TAKE THEIR CREDENTIALS CEREMONY
SERIOUSLY AND EXPECT DRESS TO REFLECT THAT SERIOUSNESS. SINCE
IT COULD HARDLY BE CALLED NORMAL PRACTICE FOR AMERICANS TO WEAR
MORNING CLOTHES TO CEREMONIAL EVENTS, A DARK SUIT WOULD DO.
BUT I GET THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT PROTOCOL WOULD PREFER
THE MORE FORMAL ATTIRE
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